Sermon Notes for May 25, 2014

The Day of the Lord

II Peter 3:1-10

Introduction

“I shall return.” General Douglas MacArthur

Two thousand years ago, our Lord made a promise, “I will return.”

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Matthew 24:30-31

That promise is repeated many times in Scripture.

Then why does he wait? That is the question Peter answers in this chapter.

I.  God destroyed the world in judgment once, and one day he will do it again. Verses 1-7

Remember!

• Remember what the prophets wrote.

• Remember the command of our Lord.

The day is coming when he will judge the earth with fire.

All that holds it back is God’s word.

II.  God’s timing is not the same as ours. Verse 8

We are creatures of time. God is not bound by time.

In God’s timetable there is no delay. His timing is always perfect.

“When the time had fully come, God sent his Son.” Galatians 4:4

When will he return?

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Matthew 24:36

When the Father says it is time for the groom to return for his bride, he will return.
Watch and be ready!

III. God is merciful in his delay. Verse 9

Every day he waits is another day for more people to come to know Jesus.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise.

He is extremely patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

According to the US Center for World Missions, there are still 3 billion people who need to hear about Jesus. That is 42% of the world’s population.

“*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*” Matthew 24:14

IV. God’s Son will come suddenly. Verse 10

The Day of the Lord will come suddenly - like a thief in the night.

Peter speaks of the Day of the Lord as a whole.

Peter tells of the awful destruction of the earth by fire.

What will that day by like? It will be:

- A Day of Judgment and destruction for the ungodly.
- A Day of Hope and Salvation for those who know Christ.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” Matthew 25:31-32 and 46

Conclusion

Are you ready for his coming?

Are you at peace with God?

Do you know your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life?